

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of instruments, which have specified functions and move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary instrument out of said plurality of instruments; and

a control restriction device for restricting control of ~~an~~ another instrument, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The control apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said control right information includes information indicating at least three statuses: a status wherein no apparatus acquires said control right, another status wherein another apparatus acquires said control right and still another status wherein a self apparatus acquires said control right; and

said control restriction device for restricting to controlling an instrument, on the basis of said control right information.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The control apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein:

said control restriction device invalidates a control command for controlling said plurality of instruments when another apparatus acquires said control right.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The control apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a display device for displaying at least said control right information.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A control system capable of controlling a plurality of cameras, which are connected to a network and move relatedly with mutual movements, from remote locations, comprising:

a control right acquisition device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction device for restricting control of another camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The control system according to Claim 6, further comprising:

a display device for displaying at least said control right information.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A method of controlling a plurality of instruments which, have specified functions and move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right of an arbitrary instrument out of said plurality of instruments; and

a control restriction step of restricting control of ~~an~~ another instrument, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The control method according to Claim 8, wherein:

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said control right information includes information indicating at least three statuses: a status wherein no apparatus acquires said control right, another status wherein another apparatuses acquires said control right and still another status wherein a self apparatus acquires said control right; and

said control restriction step includes a step of restricting to controlling an instrument, on the basis of said control right information.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The control method according to Claim 9, wherein: said control restriction step includes a step of invalidating a control command for controlling said plurality of instruments when another apparatus acquires said control right.

Claim 11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A method of controlling a plurality of cameras, which are connected to a network and move relatedly with mutual movements, from a plurality of remote locations comprising:

a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction step of restricting control of a another camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The control method according to Claim 12, further comprising:

a display step of displaying at least said control right information.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A camera control system which is formed of a server/client constitution and enabling to control a plurality of cameras through a network, comprising:

a first camera for being controlled in an image pickup direction;
a second camera for being controlled in an image pickup direction;
a control means for controlling the image pickup direction of said second camera
which picks up an area within an image pickup range of said first camera; and
a control restriction means for restricting to control said first camera when an arbitrary
client acquires a control right of said second camera.

Cancelled
Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The control system according to Claim 14, wherein:

said control restriction means restricts controlling of said first camera performed by
another client does not acquire said control right.

Cancelled
Claim 16 (Withdrawn): A method of controlling a control system which is formed of a
server/client constitution and enabling through a network to control capable of controlling an
image pickup direction of a first camera and a second camera, comprising:

a control step of controlling the image pickup direction of said second camera, which
picks up within an image pickup range of said camera; and

a control restriction step of restricting to control said first camera when an arbitrary
client acquires a control right of said second camera.

Cancelled
Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The control method according to Claim 16, wherein:
said control restriction step includes a step of restricting controlling of said first
camera performed by other clients except for said client which acquires said control right of
said second camera.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A control apparatus capable of controlling a plurality
of cameras, which move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition device for acquiring a control right to control an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction device for restricting control of a another camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired by said control right acquisition device.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method of controlling a plurality of cameras, which move relatedly with mutual movements, comprising:

a control right acquisition step of acquiring a control right of an arbitrary camera out of said plurality of cameras; and

a control restriction step for restricting control of a another camera, of which control right is not acquired, in accordance with control right information about said control right acquired in said control right acquisition step.